

To Whom This May Concern At The FCC,

With the incumbent cable and phony company duopoly ISPs toying with the idea of unfair and unnecessarily low bandwidth caps we need to ensure there is sufficient oversight by government into these practices and ensure fairness and enough competition exists in the broadband Internet access market.

Cable company ISPs like Comcast are unfairly and anti competitively trying to subsidize their digital cable TV businesses threatened by the availability and affordability of Internet Protocol Television by imposing low bandwidth caps on users and instituting scams like TV Everywhere requiring high speed Internet subscribers to bundle with digital cable TV if they want access to IPTV services online.

Broadband Internet access is a public utility and a public good that should be protected, kept neutral and open for the public, to encourage us to use this information and telecommunications resource for maximum public benefit. The incumbents suggest bandwidth caps and charging Internet users who exceed these caps extra. The problem here is that this can lead to ISPs discriminating on how much bandwidth you can use based on income.

Everyone in the country should be able to have access to high speed Internet that is equal and affordable -- regardless of income levels, or whether they live in urban or rural areas etc.

By charging extra for more bandwidth usage those who cannot afford to pay extra will be left with slower Internet and degraded service while those fortunate enough to be able to afford to pay more can get faster speeds, without bandwidth caps.

With the wireless phone carriers who also supply mobile Internet access to phone users over 3G networks (and in the case of Sprint they already have their 4G network in place) there are also some concerns worth pointing out.

All service providers whether its the incumbent broadband ISPs in general or more specifically wireless carriers should be required to all comply with Net Neutrality making them nothing more than dumb pipes as they should be to the same open Internet.

With the wireless phone carriers for years they have used their position to dictate to phone makers what features should work on the phone manufacturers hardware. That is the phone carrier tells the phone maker which features to enable or disable. When Apple released the iPhone they said they would have none of that -- they would exert control themselves not allow carriers to do so.

After all, neither Verizon Wireless nor any other carrier Verizon - should be able to dictate to device

makers which features to exclude or disable, so that the carrier can force their customers into said carrier's overpriced solutions. Data is data regardless of type and as such paying for SMS data is a scam.

Thus far, Apple has sought to correct this problem by exerting more control of the iPhone itself and not allowing the carrier dictate to it what features to include. In iPhone OS 3.0 Apple included a number of new features like support for tethering an iPhone etc (iPhones with this version or higher are technically capable of being tethered but carriers still have to allow tethering using their networks) that may have disappointed carriers somewhat unhappy with Apple for including this feature. Apple has of course also allowed VOIP apps on the iPhone and despite the apps originally being restricted to Wifi pressured AT&T to allow them over 3G. Now with the iPhone OS 4.0 update Apple is set to enable multi-tasking so VOIP apps can even be run in the background which only serves to make carriers more unhappy but further enables Apple to continue their push to limit carriers power to dictate what works and what doesn't on phones and Apple's new iAd service enables them to serve mobile advertising to users while bypassing carriers.

Apple already sells ringtones, music and other content on their iTunes Store which iPhone users can access without seeking permission from wireless carriers. Likewise, the wireless phone market has to shift more in favor of manufacturers and consumers.

For years the major wireless carriers have made money through price gouging -- exorbitant voice mail rates, over charging for data time restricted usage plans etc that need to be investigated and stopped.

I urge the FCC to examine competition in the broadband Internet access market and wireless phone markets to ensure there is enough competition and to regulate as needed -- as well as enforce said regulations to protect consumers from abusive companies.

If needed team up with the DOJ and the FTC on antitrust and breakup the duopoly phone and cable company ISPs in the broadband market as well as monopolistic wireless phone carriers to create competition where it doesn't exist.

Mandate increased competition and ban further unsafe mega mergers like Comcast NBC Universal that are not in the public's interest and will harm consumers and competition. Protect the public from these anti competitive carriers and broadband service providers.